

In the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 6, with the following amended paragraph:

In association with a reduction in size and an increase in recording density of a magnetic disk drive in recent years, the flying height of a head slider has become smaller and it has been desired to realize contact recording/reproduction such that the head slider flies a very small height above a recording medium or comes into contact with the recording medium. Further, a conventional magnetic induction head has a disadvantage such that its reproduction output decreases with a decrease in peripheral speed of a magnetic disk as the recording medium (relative speed between the head and the medium) caused by a reduction in diameter of the magnetic disk. To cope with this disadvantage, there has recently extensively been developed a magnetoresistive head (MR head) whose reproduction output does not depend on the peripheral speed ~~and capable~~ and is capable of obtaining a large output even at a low peripheral speed. Such a magnetoresistive head is now a dominating magnetic head. Further, a magnetic head utilizing a giant magnetoresistive (GMR) effect is also commercially available at present.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 28, line 6, with the following amended paragraph:

This is considered to be due to the fact that when electrons pass the layer having a thickness substantially equal to the mean free path, the difference in electrical resistance between the electrons not spin-dependently scattering and the electrons spin-dependently scattering becomes a maximum. In ~~actual~~, actuality, when the thickness of the layer exceeds a value about twice the mean free path, it is considered that the possibility of changing of electron spin becomes large to cause a decrease in resistance change amount. By taking this concept further, the thicknesses of the free layer and the pinned layer can be optimized with the mean free path of conduction electrons in the spin direction not spin-dependently scattered not only in the case that the free layer and the pinned layer are formed of CoFeB, but also in the case that the free layer and the pinned layer are formed of another ferromagnetic material or two or more kinds of ferromagnetic materials in combination.